

**Block II****Grant # 070034: South Tulare County Community Conservation Wildfire Protection Plan**

**Applicant:** Tulare County Resource Conservation District - Sequoia Fire Safe Council

**Grant Category:** SOG 3

**Amount Requested:** \$54,000

**Purpose:** The development and completion of a Community Conservation Wildfire Protection Plan (**CCWPP**) is vital for the preplanning, prioritization and a continued reference guide from which conservation principles can be considered when approaching any of the project areas listed within such as; Fuel Reduction-Watershed Protection Projects, Fire-Watershed Protection Outreach Education, Public Resources Code 4290 Inspections, Defensible Space Planning, Monitoring of Projects, Designating Appropriate Research Projects, and Collaboration and Coordination among; Protection, Environmental, Cultural Agencies, Conservation Organizations, Forest & Conservation Industry, User Groups and Concerned Citizens.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends authorization of this grant as proposed at the recommended funding level of \$54,000.

**Letters of Support:**

California Fire Safe Council Inc. Board of Directors

**CEQA:** The proposal is not defined as a project according to CEQA.

**Project Description Summary from Grant Application:**

We will be continuing to implement and promote fuel load reduction and wildfire education projects in Tulare County. In order to do this, the Tulare County RCD and the newly formed Sequoia Fire Safe Council will facilitate the development of a CWPP within Tulare County.

We have divided the County into three geographic areas Northern Tulare County, Southern Tulare County, and the Reservation. This project would focus on the development of a Southern Tulare County CWPP in which it would focus on communities at risk (CAR) and at risk communities adjacent to federal land and incorporate federal projects. In doing this we would incorporate multiple watersheds within Southern Tulare County. In addition to identifying areas in need of hazardous fuel removal, an educational component will be developed to increase fire safety in areas close to the Bureau of Land Management, and the US Forest Service.

Desired outcomes would be: An assessment of the landscape defining areas of concern and how to mitigate these concerns in order of priority for an extremely large area (a

little less than half of Tulare County watersheds). The results of this project will be explained to the public taking into account community assessments. This will undoubtedly increase the awareness of the risk many households face today. This CWPP will benefit the people of Tulare County and the Sequoia Fire Safe Council in a variety of ways. The Sequoia fire Safe Council is just starting out so, this will create a base for the fire safe council to work from in the future.